



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE

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NASS TO FOCUS ON 2011 SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION IN SEPTEMBER

LAKEWOOD, CO – There was no shortage of challenges for U.S. farmers this year as historical weather patterns brought unpredictable growing conditions to many parts of the country. Now with the harvest of small grains in Colorado near completion for the 2011 growing season, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will measure U.S. farmers' final production of those grains, including wheat, oats, barley and rye.

During the first two weeks of September, NASS will contact more than 1000 producers in Colorado as part of the September Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey. The information gathered will provide the basis for official USDA estimates of 2011 acreage, yield and production for small grains.

"This is one of the most telling surveys NASS conducts each year," explained Bill Meyer, director of the NASS Colorado Field Office. "Not only will we collect final data on 2011 small grains production, but we'll also gather information about the quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on farms across the state."

"The data from the September Agricultural Survey will benefit farmers by providing them timely, accurate and useful information to evaluate the outcome of the growing season and to help make critical year-end business decisions," added Meyer.

NASS will contact selected Colorado producers by mail, telephone, or in person and ask them to provide information on their 2011 production of winter wheat, spring wheat, barley, and oats. Information will also be gathered for on-farm stocks of corn, sorghum, sunflowers, safflower, and small grains. As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law.

"NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," Meyer said.

Survey results will be published in several reports, including the annual *Small Grains* summary and the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on September 30. These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information call the NASS Colorado Field Office at 1-800-392-3202.

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